



Department of State TELEGRAM

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EXCISE

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 IO-14 HA-05 CA-01 /102 W
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R 141015Z FEB 79
FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
TO SECSTATE WASHOC 445
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD UNM
AMEMBASSY KABUL
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 12065: XDS-4
E.O. 2/7/99 (ARCHARD, DOUGLAS B.) OR/M
TAGS: PINS AF
SUBJECT: (U) THE AFGHAN ARMY AND ANTI-DRA FIGHTING

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

SUMMARY (BEGIN SUMMARY). ACCORDING TO AN AFGHAN ARMY OFFICER, AFGHAN TROOP MORALE IS LOW BECAUSE OF FAIRLY HEAVY LOSSES AND BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO KILL FELLOW AFGHANS. YUNUS TOLD ME FEB 11 THAT ILL-TRAINED CONSCRIPTS ARE BEARING BRUNT OF LOSSES. ABOUT 1500 MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN PURGED SO FAR. SOME 850 SOLDIERS WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED IN FIGHTING THIS MONTH NEAR KABUL WHICH STEMMED FROM THE ARREST OF IBRAHIM MUJADDIDI. IN JANUARY, VILLAGERS FOUGHT TROOPS IN SEVERAL VILLAGES IN THE HAZARAJAT. 700 SOLDIERS WERE KILLED THAT MONTH IN SOUTHERN AFGHANISTAN, ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] I SUSPECT THAT THE KIA FIGURES

REPORTS ARE RATHER INFLATED. [REDACTED] PAID \$1000 BRIBE TO GET AN AFGHAN PASSPORT. (END SUMMARY)

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3. AN AFGHAN ARMY OFFICER, [REDACTED] WHO CAME TO

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PESHAWAR FEB 10, HAS PASSED ALONG SEVERAL BITS OF INFORMATION ON RECENT FIGHTING IN AFGHANISTAN. [] INFANTRY OFFICER, HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IN KABUL, IN THE OFFICE WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR NEW RECRUITS. [] ENROUTE TO NEW DELHI, OSTENSIBLY TO SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR HIS WIFE, BUT PLANS TO RETURN HERE IN TWO WEEKS AS A REFUGEE. HE HOPES TO GO TO THE U.S. WITH HIS EXTENDED FAMILY.

4. MORALE AND CONSCRIPTION: ACCORDING [] THE SCATTERED FIGHTING IN AFGHANISTAN IS TAKING A HEAVY ENOUGH TOLL TO SAP THE ARMY'S MORALE. ALSO, LIKE TROOPS EVERYWHERE, SOLDIERS DON'T LIKE KILLING THEIR COUNTRYMEN. THE DRA IS CONTINUING THE DAUD REGIME'S POLICY OF CONSCRIPTION, AND POORLY TRAINED TROOPS WITH LITTLE EXPERIENCE ARE BEING PUSHED INTO COMBAT. REPORTEDLY, THOSE TROOPS WHO ARE CONSIDERED LEAST RELIABLE POLITICALLY ARE SENT INTO ACTION FIRST, SO SUFFER MOST, EXCEPT FOR THE HAZARAS. [] THAT GENERALLY THEY ARE NOT TRUSTED ENOUGH TO BE GIVEN WEAPONS, SO DO NOT GET INVOLVED IN MUCH FIGHTING. DRA'S CONSCRIPTION POLICY APPARENTLY STILL FAVORS EDUCATED CLASSES. THOSE WITH LITTLE OR NO EDUCATION SERVE FOR TWO YEARS, HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR ONE YEAR, UNIVERSITY GRADUATES FOR SIX MONTHS..

All
B1

5. MILITARY PURGE: [] THAT ABOUT 1500 MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN PURGED BY THE TARAKI REGIME TO DATE. IN HIS UNIT, FIFTEEN GOT THE AXE. WHILE THEY RANGED IN RANK FROM LIETENANT TO GENERAL, MOST WERE SENIOR OFFICERS.

6. MUJADDIDI ARREST SPARKS FIGHTING: THE REPORTED ARREST OF THE RESPECTED RELIGIOUS LEADER PIR IBRAHIM MUJADDIDI AND THE ATTEMPTED ARRESTS OF HIS FOLLOWERS, RECENTLY SET OFF FIGHTING IN TWO PROVINCES, [] INCIDENTS OCCURRED AT TAGAB, PARKAN (SEE PESHAWAR SEPTEL PARA 5) VILLAGE OF ABOUT 15,000 PEOPLE; VILLAGE MOHAMMAD

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AGHA IN LOGAR; AND NEAR BAGRAM AIR FORCE BASE IN PARKAN. REPORTEDLY, AIR BOMBARDMENTS WERE CARRIED OUT ABOUT FEBRUARY 4 AGAINST ALL THREE AREAS WITH HEAVY CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, [] SET ARMY DEAD REPEAT DEAD AT 850 IN THE INCIDENTS.

7. HAZARAJAT FIGHTING: VILLAGERS RESISTANCE TO A HOUSE-TO-HOUSE ARMS SEARCH IN BAMIYAN PROVINCE, ACCORDING [] LEAD TO HEAVY FIGHTING THERE LAST MONTH, BUT NO AERIAL BOMBING. A FEW DAYS BEFORE AND A FEW DAYS AFTER JANUARY 19, VILLAGERS FOUGHT TROOPS IN DIAZUNGI, YAKOWLANG, AND SURK PARSA (ALL PHONETIC SPELLINGS)

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8. SOUTHERN AFGHANISTAN: KABUL WAS AWASH WITH RUMORS OF FIGHTING IN BADAQSHAN ON FEBRUARY 8, JUST BEFORE HE LEFT. ALSO, FIGHTING WAS REPORTED IN KHOST ON FEBRUARY 9.

10. COMMENT: I HAVE LITTLE BASIS ON WHICH TO JUDGE CREDIBILITY AS A SOURCE. WE DO HAVE COOROBORATION ON SOME MATTERS ON WHICH HE REPORTS. HOWEVER, I SUSPECT THAT HIS FIGURES ON ARMY KIA'S IN RECENT FIGHTING ARE RATHER INFLATED.

11. TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: [] HIS WIFE ARE TRAVELLING ON AN AFGHAN SERVICE PASSPORT, VALID FOR ONE YEAR, WHICH WAS JUST ISSUED. [] CLAIMS HE PAID THE EQUIVALENT OF \$1,000 AS A BRIBE TO GET IT. HE OBTAINED INDIAN AND PAKISTANI VISAS BEFORE LEAVING KABUL. [] CHECK IN WITH THE AFGHAN MILITARY ATTACHE IN NEW DELHI AFTER HIS ARRIVAL THERE. HE PLANS TO LEAVE PESHAWAR FEBRUARY 12.

12. BIO NOTE: [] HE IS MARRIED TO A DAUGHTER OF [] A KABULI BUSINESSMAN WHO SOUGHT REFUGE IN PESHAWAR ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO. [] IS QUOTE WELL-TO-DO, HOPES TO QUALIFY FOR A U.S. IMMIGRANT VISA AS AN INVESTOR OR THROUGH LABOR CERTIFICATION. [] IN TO THE CONSULATE SEVERAL TIMES AND SEEMS VERY WELL DISPOSED TO THE U.S. HE BROUGHT HIS SON-IN-LAW IN TO SEE ME.

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